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During the months of July and August the Jerusalem School activity centered around the excavations at Beitin, el-Jib, and Balatah. The outstanding success of these three expeditions can be appreciated as one reads the summaries of results by each excavation director below. The School facilities were taxed to the maximum with as many as 40 expedition members housed and 52 taking meals here. Yet, the crowded conditions did not appear to impede the efficiency of the excavations.

Thirty-two members of our expedition staffs had the honor of meeting His Majesty, King Hussein, on July 24. He expressed his interest in the history discovered by archaeologists and the hope of visiting excavations in the future. The Jordanian Foreign Ministry graciously provided the group with lunch at the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman while they were awaiting the audience.

On August 6 a group of the Balatah staff visited Tell Sheikh Abu Zarad, probably to be identified with Tappuah, a border point between Manasseh and Ephraim. This handsome tell, which dominates the area for miles, had surface sherds indicating a history very similar to Shechem's. A representative group of sherds is now in the School's teaching collection.

Das Deutsche Evangelische Institut für Altertumswissenschaft des Heiligen Landes study group led by Professor A. Kuschke of Mainz is again making its annual tour and topographical studies. The seven members of the group, including two East German scholars, were entertained at a Sunday evening supper on August 21 and told of their proposed projects which will be described in a future Newsletter.

Two excavations are currently in progress here. The British School is continuing its work at Petra under Mr. Peter Parr. The excavation team left Jerusalem August 18 and will continue operations for two or three months. The excavations at Tell el-Far'ah were resumed on September 1 under the direction of Pere R. de Vaux of the Ecole Biblique. Excavation will continue for about six weeks.

The Beitin excavation which began May 25 completed its work July 19. Professor and Mrs. Kelso remained at the School for a month studying the Bethel material. Shortly before their planned departure date Professor Kelso suffered a mild heart attack. We are happy to report that he is now recovering steadily at the Augusta-Victoria

Hospital and hopes to be back at the School within a month for further recuperation. He summarizes the work of the fourth campaign at Beitin as follows:

The Beitin expedition of the American School and the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary has concluded a most successful campaign. They located the old Canaanite high place at Bethel which was used as early as 2500 B.C. and found the blood of the sacrificial animals still staining the white limestone.

Directly over the high place a temple was erected to the great god El. Three courses of the old temple wall are still intact and the doorway which opened to the rising sun is still visible. The temple appears to have been in use as late as Abraham's day. About the time of Joseph, however, the city's fortifications were expanded and a massive wall 3.60 meters wide surrounded the city. It was erected of well dressed stone on the exterior, with well interlocked stones for the core. Near the spring of the modern village four meters of the old city wall were uncovered. In some places this city wall continued as late as Roman times.

The Hyksos builders of Joseph's day introduced a new type of pedestrian city gate as an entrance to the palace grounds. At the northwest corner of the city they built a long rectangular gateway. Visitors to the king came up three stone steps and entered a wide gate; then they walked fifteen meters to the west along a narrow corridor to the end of the room where they made a complete "U" turn and climbed up six stone steps after which they entered another corridor going eastward. Then they turned south and went through the great city wall to the royal buildings.

The western city wall was built by two construction teams - one working from the south and the other from the north. The point of juncture is plain as the walls were on a slightly different alignment. Another section of the old city wall runs directly under one of the homes of Beitin, and one of the city streets goes directly over one of the former city gates.

This year the Beitin expedition had about twenty-five students in training for archaeological research. Key members of the staff were Arabs who have worked with us since 1950.

James L. Kelso

The second ASOR-related excavation to begin this spring was the University of Pennsylvania expedition at el-Jib. Director James B. Pritchard reports the following results of the fourth season which lasted from June 15 through July 30:

The principal excavation was in Area 17, where there had been found in 1959 an industrial installation for the making of wine and an elaborate Roman tomb. Here 21 plots, 5 m. x 5 m., were dug to bed-rock. In this area there were three principal periods of occupation, Iron I, Iron II, and Roman, with scattered traces of debris from the Early Bronze and the Middle Bronze periods on bed rock. The most

significant constructions found in the area belonged to the Iron II period and consisted of vats hewn in the solid rock, similar to those found in 1959 and interpreted as storage vats for wine which had been placed in large storage jars. Twenty-eight of these bell-shaped vats were found this season. Four of these had been plastered in the Iron II period and were obviously for the purpose of holding wine in bulk, possibly in the fermenting stage. A few of the wine vats had been reused in the Roman period. Three had been connected and plastered with Roman plaster which bore upon the outside a black deposit which is to be analyzed. It is not impossible that these vats were used for the storage of oil in the Roman period. About half of the industrial area opened this season seemed to have been an open court; the remainder was divided into rooms. To the east of the area the city wall of the Iron Age was discovered. This corresponds in thickness and construction to the city wall discovered in previous seasons. A portion of it was robbed and the materials reused in the Roman period.

The most important discovery of the season was that of the cemetery on the west side of the tell. Here twelve shaft tombs were found cut in the relatively soft limestone of the terrace. The shafts were cylindrical and usually round in plan and domed at the top. Reuse was evident. Two of the tombs bore pottery which seems to belong to the Late Bronze period. Most were filled with Middle Bronze II pottery of the type known from the Jericho tombs. Two of the richest tombs, 10A and 10B, were reused in the Late Bronze period and produced characteristic painted ware of this period. Only one tomb, T15, had not been silted in with material which entered through breaks in the limestone of the top. Here, however, a number of successive burials had disturbed the arrangement of jars and other funerary equipment.

A sounding was made in Area 10, where there is more than 4 m. of debris. The latest period produced Turkish burials; below was a series of Iron II occupations and floor levels with no burnings to separate them. Below the Iron II material was a considerable deposit of Middle Bronze II material, including 16 crushed storage jars on one floor. Apparently the house had been destroyed by a general burning. A post had supported the roof of the house and a considerable amount of carbon was collected for a Carbon-14 test. This sounding, which was conducted by Diana Kirkbride, should provide a good sequence of Iron II pottery.

Another sounding in Area 10, at the NW part of the tell revealed a large building of the Iron I period with a wall of well-cut stones 1.30 m. thick. From the sounding here it is now certain that there is an important public building at the NW of the tell, which can be excavated in a future campaign. A plaster floor of about 5 cm. thickness covers the inside of the building.

James B. Pritchard

The third season of the Drew-McCormick-ASOR Expedition at Shechem took place between July 2 and August 13 with a staff of 32 led by G. Ernest Wright who reports as follows:

Three sectors of the tell were the main foci of our work. Field VII was a new area on the northern part of the tell near the German expedition's north-south trench. Here, we have been told by the people of Balata, Dr. Sellin used to pitch his camp. Consequently, it has been untouched by previous excavation, and our purpose there is to learn the detailed history of the city by making a stratigraphic slice through a series of private houses. This year nine five-meter squares were opened and these have become an area 17 x 17 meters, with the balks removed. In future seasons we plan to enlarge the sector and make it a major center of our work.

Roughly two meters of Hellenistic deposit are present and the stratigraphy has enabled us to tie three seasons of work together into four Hellenistic strata, which represent the era when the Samaritans were trying to make Shechem the rival of Jerusalem. Stratum I consists mainly of surface debris and one house filled with a deposit dating ca. 150 to 100 B.C. Our latest coins belong to this phase: for example, a fine silver Demetrius coin, found this year, dated 127 B.C. Stratum II is also preserved in very fragmentary state, though it dates approximately between 190 and 150 B.C. Stratum III, appearing in two phases is the best preserved of our Samaritan city levels, and is to be dated ca. 250-190 B.C. Associated with the second or top phase of this stratum was a small pot filled with 35 silver tetradrachmas in excellent condition. All were Ptolemaic, the latest having been struck in a mint of Ptolemy V and dated 195 B.C. This suggests that the Egyptian king who lost the country to the Seleucids gave up Shechem, not in 198 B.C. as usually assumed, but sometime after 195 B.C. Stratum IV A and B, ca. 325-250 B.C., are also dated by coins; to them belong, for example, a silver coin of Alexander the Great found on our lowest Hellenistic level in the East Gate in 1957, and the hoard of bronze coins of Ptolemy I found in 1956. For the first time it has been possible to fix a ceramic typology within roughly half-century periods during the third and second centuries B.C.

With Stratum V, we moved immediately into the jumbled, burned debris of the 8th century B.C. Here was the vivid evidence of the havoc wrought in an Israelite city by the Assyrian army between 724 and 721 B.C. Deep piles of brick and debris from house walls, from the plastered surfacing of these walls, and from the fallen clay-and-straw roofs, covered the whole excavated area. Heavy vessels from the roofs were smashed in falling, while below them on the burned house floors were the smaller household vessels, including cooking pots and a variety of bowls. Among the latter were many examples of Palestine's finest pottery during the 8th century, vessels which I have labelled "Samaria Ware B." Stratum VI from a somewhat earlier period (probably 9th century) was just being reached when the season ended.

From the 8th century city two seals in particular may be mentioned. One is a small oval seal in amethyst with four Hebrew letters carefully incised by an expert, LMBN, probably the shortened form of a name which once may have meant, "Yahweh is my guide," or "Yahweh is my teacher." The other seal is a large cylinder with a beautifully

engraved design in Syro-Palestinian style, an exceedingly rare and unique object from this age. Certain of its motifs, however, seem on preliminary study, to be related to those used on Assyrian seals of the 9th-8th centuries B.C., in particular, a type of winged sun-disk over a sacred tree.

Especially fascinating has been the detailed tracing of the history of the great temple of Baal-berith ("The Lord of the Covenant") in the second of our major sectors this year, Field V. An Israelite government granary was erected over its ruins during the 8th century, the era of our Stratum V. Below this we have found this year two main phases of the temple building. The first and largest phase had two floors associated with it, both from the late 17th and early 16th centuries (MB II C). It was oriented 28° south of east. Destroyed by the Egyptians ca. 1550 B.C., the building was rebuilt during the Late Bronze Age, on a smaller scale with a slightly different orientation (33° south of east). It was this second temple, with its altar and sacred standing stones in the courtyard, which remained undestroyed when, according to Deut. 27 and Josh. 24, the Israelites arrived at Shechem and enacted a covenant ceremony. Here, as elsewhere on the mound, there was no destruction of the city or its temple between the 13th and 12th centuries. The Late Bronze and Iron Ages are separated and distinguished only by the raising of floor levels. Yet the great quantities of early Iron Age pottery found in the temple, as elsewhere on the site, appear to belong to the pre-Philistine phase of Iron I, while the mound has yielded no evidence of occupation during the time of Philistine power (ca. 1150-1000 B.C.). This strongly suggests that the story of Abimelech related in Judges 9 should not be dated later than ca. 1150 B.C.

The temple was founded on nearly six meters of Middle Bronze fill which raised it high above the great cyclopean wall (Wall A), against which the fill was thrown. No architecture exists under it, though in the earth resting on virgin soil there was an early Chalcolithic stratum, with a dwelling pit in it comparable to those found at Bethshan, Jericho, and Tell el-Far'ah. The period of this stratum is early 4th millennium B.C. (Yarmukian, Jericho VIII, Kenyon's "Neolithic B"). Before ca. 1650 B.C., therefore, the temple area lay outside the city, except for the period of the extensive Chalcolithic deposit.

Our third major area, Field VI, lay directly east and northeast of the temple in a sector opened by Dr. Sellin in 1926-27. Here the deep fill for the temple courtyard had mostly been removed and an elaborate building complex had been exposed, but it had neither been interpreted nor dated. This complex proved to be the palace of the city during the 18th and early 17th centuries (MB II B). It was set within its own enclosure wall (Sellin's "temenos wall"), while directly west of it was the city wall of the period, running beneath the eastern edge of the temple. The palace was completely rebuilt three times. Between it and its enclosure wall was a street, repaved nine times with cobblestones on its eastern side and a drain on its western side next to the palace. Streets 1-5, 6-7, 8-9 were related to the three phases of the palace with a major destruction vividly recorded on the floors of the second phase and to be observed on Street 6. The